IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wireless remote terminal apparatus comprising:

a label reader capable of reading information from a label, wherein the label is associated with a first product;

a communication unit capable of communicating information to one or more service nodes; and

a controller, coupled the label reader, the communication unit, arranged to receive information from the label reader, send a request to one or more of the service nodes through the communication unit, receive at least one competitive bid from an on-line retailer in response to the request from the service node, wherein the competitive bid relates to an on-line retailer's product similar to the first product and wherein the request and the competitive bid are formatted as documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized environment, **wherein responsive to the received competitive bid, the controller is further arranged to allow a user to adjust the received competitive bid and send a counter offer to one or more of the service nodes**.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, responsive to the received competitive bid, the controller is further arranged to allow profile information to

be accessed by a service node to accept a selected competitive bid and engage in an on-line transaction.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus and the service node communicate in a client/server network.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the documents comprise XML documents.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the XML documents are expressed as SOAP messages.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a context sensor coupled to the controller.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more service nodes are responsive to a profile associated with a user contained within the request from the apparatus.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the label reader comprises an RFID reader or a barcode reader.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A wireless remote terminal apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operative to read an item's tag information, communicate the tag information to a service node, receive a competitive bid from the service node, and responsive to the received response, to allow profile information to be accessed by a service node to engage into a commercial transaction, and where the request and the response are formatted as documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized environment, **wherein responsive to the received competitive bid, the controller is further arranged to allow a user to adjust the received competitive bid and send a counter offer to one or more of the service nodes**.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the tag comprises an RFID or barcode tag.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a remote user to receive competitive bids for products similar to that of a first product, the method comprising the steps of:

reading label information from a first product, the product located at a retailer location, using a remote terminal;

communicating the information to one or more service nodes using the remote terminal;

searching, using the label information from the first product, one or more other retailers' information for similar products;

forming a competitive bid proposal for the similar products by at least one other retailers; and

transmitting the competitive bid proposal to the wireless remote terminal

allowing a user to adjust the received competitive bid and send a counter offer to one or more of the service nodes.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further including accepting the competitive bid proposal.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the one or more service nodes are responsive to a profile associated with a user contained within the information from the remote terminal.